

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2011. In the office action, an additional Election/Restriction requirement was presented (additional to the previous Election/Restriction requirement).

In response to the Election/Restriction requirement, the Applicants elect the species of Ceramic material Subspecies 1, that is, the species which the Examiner has characterized as being drawn to “wherein the powder of the ceramic material comprises aluminum oxide.” The Applicants respectfully submit that all of previously elected claims 18-19, 21-29, and 34-37 are readable on the elected species, as are new claims 38 and 39, and previously withdrawn claims 20 and 30-33.

New dependent claims 38 and 39 have been added, which expressly recite the features of the elected species: “wherein the powder of the ceramic material comprises aluminum oxide.” To facilitate proceedings, these elections are made without traverse. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that currently pending claims 18-19, 21-29, and 34-39 read on the elected species.

In addition, it is respectfully requested that upon allowance of independent claim 18, that the Examiner withdraw the election-of-species requirements, re-join claims 20 and 30-33 in the above-identified application, and examine said claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 306.45852X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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